REMARKS

Claims 7-8 have been canceled. Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 1-2 for clarification, and amend the specification and claims 5-6 for

minor corrections. Applicants refer to Figs. 5-8 and their corresponding description in the

specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new

matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the specification for an informality, which Applicants correct

by amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the

objection.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The Examiner objected to the feature "sequentially to" as being not disclosed or

supported in the specification. Applicants amend claim 2 to more clearly recite "consecutively

stored in an order of an arrangement of the first memory part, the second ...," and refer the

Examiner to page 9, lines 1-17 in the specification for disclosure and support of this feature.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.

6,151,334 to Kim et al.; claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Kim et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,504,855 to Matsunaga; claim 6 stands rejected under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,048 to

Knapp et al.; and claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kim et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,295 to Brown. Applicants amend claim 1 in a good

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faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully

traverse the rejection.

The Examiner responded to Applicants previous response by simply contending that the

Applicants argued that Kim et al. failed to disclose the entire claim, when the rejection was of

each limitation individually. Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' analysis in the

previous response—in particular, by pointing out that the arrangement of features in the claims is

not disclosed in Kim et al.—was proper; "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the

claim..." MPEP § 2131 (citing In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)).

Applicants clearly pointed out that the elements described in Kim et al. that were relied upon in

the claim rejections were not arranged in the manner recited in the claims, and therefore, fail to

disclose the claimed invention.

Again, the Examiner relied upon the description of de-multiplexor 74 in removing unit 24

of Kim et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed extracting part. Kim et al. only describe,

however, multiplexor 48 sending a signal to the removing unit 24, and do not disclose the

multiplexor 48 receiving any signal from the removing unit 24. Therefore, Kim et al., as cited

and relied upon by the Examiner, at least fail to disclose the claimed feature of an extracting part

outputting data signals to a multiplexing circuit.

A fortiori, Kim et al., as relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

> "[a] device for processing data signals, comprising:
> a plurality of input interfaces each receiving an input
> signal; and
> a multiplexing circuit multiplexing a plurality of output
> signals from the plurality of input interfaces,
> wherein said each of the plurality of input interfaces
> comprises:
> a storing part storing the input signal; and

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an <u>extracting part</u> extracting data signals included in said input signal from said storing part and <u>outputting said data signals to said multiplexing circuit,</u>
wherein said extracting part receives <u>storage state information indicating an amount of data stored in said storing part</u> from said storing part and <u>outputs said data signals to said multiplexing circuit based on the amount of data indicated by the storage state information,</u>" as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over <u>Kim et al.</u> for at least the above-stated reasons. The Examiner relied upon the additional references to specifically address the features recited in the dependent claims. As such, the additions of these references would still have failed to cure the aforementioned deficiencies of <u>Kim et al.</u> even assuming, <u>arguendo,</u> that such additions would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 are patentable over the cited references, separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.
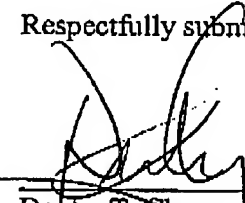
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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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